

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
STANDARDIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HARRIS RANCH
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2004**

Members Attending

Verne Crookshanks, Chairman
Bob Blakely
Pete Dinkler
Jim Carter
Jim Simonian
Jon Zaninovich

Members Absent

Stephen Patricio
Thomas Nunes, Jr.
Jerry Prieto

CDFA Representatives

Rick Jensen
Gary Manning
Stacey Hughes

Interested Parties

Rob Neenan, CA Grape & Tree Fruit League
Dennis Plann, Fresno Co. Agricultural
Commissioners Office

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was established at 10:10 a.m.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 20, 2003 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Jim Simonian moved to accept the minutes with a minor editorial change. Pete Dinker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS

Gary Manning reported the following members' terms would be up in August: Jon Zaninovich, Jim Carter, Stephen Patricio, Thomas Nunes, Jr., Jerry Prieto, and Eric Lauritzen. All of the members are eligible for reappointment. Gary also announced that Mike Gardoni is willing to serve on the Committee. He would represent fresh vegetables as a tomato producer/packer.

ITEM 4: RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTAL CONTAINER AUDIT

Stacey Hughes covered the results of the experimental container audit. Stacey presented a summary of the number of audits preformed by the counties and the cost (see attached). Gary asked the committee if they wished standardization to continue with the audits next fiscal year. The committee felt the program needed to continue at the same level.

MOTION: Pete Dinker moved to continue a full audit of experimental containers next fiscal year. Jon Zaninovich seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5: REGULATION AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Gary Manning covered the current regulations being proposed. The Tomato Commission has petitioned the Department to amend "vine ripened" from "time of packing" to "time of picking". They also included a definition for greenhouse grown tomatoes.

Western Growers Association petitioned the Department to adopt a new standard container for melons. The Department hopes to have both regulations in place prior to the harvest season.

Western Growers Association has sponsored legislation (SB 1910 Machado) to continue the Standardization Program until 2010. The bill also has the backing of the Grape and Tree Fruit League.

Assembly Bill 869, Civil Penalty Authority, was discussed. The Grape and Tree Fruit League, Western Growers Association, and California Citrus Mutual support adoption of the bill.

ITEM 6: COUNTY CONTRACT UPDATE AND 2004/05 PROPOSALS

Gary Manning presented the committee with a spreadsheet that covered county costs (see attached) for standardization inspections. Rick Jensen stated that while the proposed contracts were increased, the counties only bill for actual work performed. It was pointed out that Riverside County would reduce the number of inspectors' hours by 25 percent. The committee discussed the issue at length and agreed to accept the county contracts.

MOTION: Jim Simonian moved to accept the county contract proposals. Pete Dinkler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Rick informed the committee of the program's plan to add two State inspectors (one-half time each) to provide inspection and enforcement in areas not currently covered by County inspections. There was significant discussion by the committee as to whether this was an appropriate allocation of resources. Ultimately, the committee agreed that this was a positive action plan and would be reviewed after six months.

ITEM 7: RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT FEE AUDIT

Gary Manning stated that the Department's Audit Office has completed the overview of the Standardization Navel and Valencia and Orange Crop Survey fee collection and

distribution. They concurred with Inspection and Compliance Branch findings that the assessments are correctly being distributed to each program. Because of the error Standardization will owe Navel and Valencia Program \$108,528.

MOTION: Jon Zaninovich motioned to accept the report and repay the Navel and Valencia Program. Bob Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 8: STATE AND COUNTY ENFORCEMENT RESULTS

Gary gave an update of the enforcement activities of State and County inspectors assigned to provide enforcement of California minimum standards at production and wholesale. State inspectors submit weekly work sheets of their enforcement activities. The average time inspectors performed enforcement activities was 37% last fiscal year. The remainder of their time was travel, training, office, and field activities (surveys, lab certifications, and providing assistance to counties). The reduction in enforcement was due in part to losing our northern inspector for three months whose primary job is inspection at production, wholesale and roadside stands.

ITEM 9: BUDGET STATUS REPORT

Gary covered the financial status of the Standardization Program for the Committee.

1. Fiscal Year Closing: The estimated expenditures for the 2003/04 fiscal year are \$1,386, 801. Including estimated prior year expenditures paid in the current year, the total for the fiscal year would be \$1,523,751.
2. Revenue and Fund Balance: The estimated revenue for the 2003/04 fiscal year is \$1,021,917. The estimated fund balance is \$2,045,908.
3. Fiscal Year 2004/05 Budget Proposal: The proposed budget for the 2004/05 fiscal year is \$1,641,584.

MOTION: Jim Simonian moved to accept the budget report and recommend to the Secretary the proposed budget for 2004/05 fiscal year. Jim Carter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING

To be scheduled in October or November.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Pete Dinkler moved to adjourn the meeting. Jon Zaninovich seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gary Manning, Program Supervisor
Standardization Program
Inspection and Compliance Branch

GM/ss